

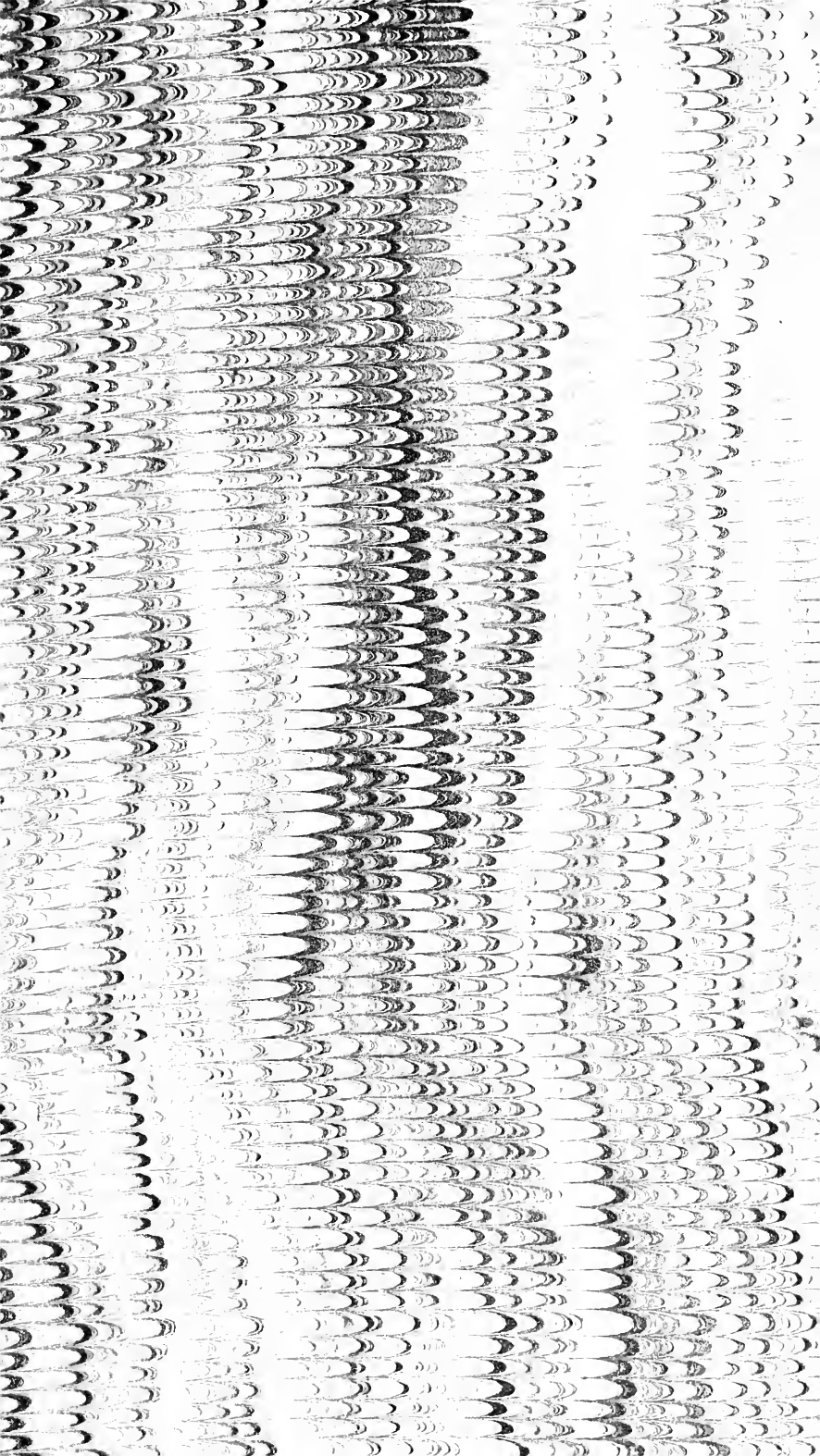


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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.









AN
ADDRESS

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY,

PRONOUNCED IN
KING'S CHAPEL, BOSTON,

ON
THEIR FIRST ANNIVERSARY,

OCTOBER 23, 1813.

BY WILLIAM JEFFKS, A. M. S. A. S.
Pastor of a Church in Bath, and Professor of Oriental Languages, &c
in Bowdoin College, Maine.

BOSTON :
PUBLISHED BY ISAIAH THOMAS, JUN.
November---1813.

Eng
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At a meeting of the AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY at the
Exchange Coffee House, in Boston, October 23d, 1813—

“VOTED, unanimously, That the President and the two Vice
Presidents be a Committee to express the thanks of this Society
to the Rev. Professor JENKS for his ingenious and learned address,
this day delivered, and to request of him a copy for publication.”

Rev. and Dear Sir,

THE undersigned, appointed a Committee to make the re-
quest and present the thanks expressed in the above vote, do ac-
cordingly present you the hearty acknowledgments of the Society,
and beg your kind compliance with their wishes.

ISAIAH THOMAS.
W. D. PECK,
W. PAINE.

GENTLEMEN,

IN compliance with the request of the Society, so obligingly
communicated through you, I hereby commit to you a copy of the
“Address,” and am, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM JENKS.

ISAIAH THOMAS, ESQ. }
PROFESSOR PECK, } Committee.
DR. PAINE. }

ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN

OF THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY,

THE acceptance of your appointment to address you on this occasion, may well seem to demand an apology. I shall however decline to offer it, and trust your candour and the indulgence of this audience, in proceeding to comply with my duty, as a member of your respected body, by obeying your desires.

In the choice of your anniversary, gentlemen, you have seen fit to fix the attention of this Society and the publick on events worthy to be commemorated by all civilized America. Your name embraces a continent. The first view of land belonging to the New World distinguishes this day in the annals of time.*

* "A light, seen by Columbus at ten in the night of the eleventh of October, was viewed as the harbinger of the wished for land; and early the next morning (Friday, Oct. 12th) land was distinctly seen." Dr. HOLMES' *Amer. Annals*, Vol. I. p. 4. In the Gregorian Calendar, or New Style, October 25d corresponds to this memorable day.

But you have not, I presume, selected this day for the purpose of hearing repeated the story of the Discoverer. Interesting and instructive as is his story, almost every circumstance of it has happily become familiar even to our youth. In their earliest years, our countrymen of these United States associate the memory of the illustrious but long neglected citizen of *Genoa*, with the deep impressions made on their hearts, by the virtues of their political Father. In the latter they contemplate an example of national confidence unbounded yet secure, of publick honours lost in “the wild majesty of private life,”* of power used with moderation and resigned with dignity; in the former, talents, merit and conscious superiority to the men of the age meekly, yet with firmness, submitting to disappointments, bearing the ingratitude of a penurious and jealous king, and, more than all, the undeserved success of haughty, worthless courtiers.

Poetry, as well as History, has consecrated the achievements of COLUMBUS.† But we must leave, for the present, to History and Poetry the pleasing task of dwelling on individual characters. The appropriate researches of the Antiquary aim at objects

* AKENSIDE. † See the splendid national work of BARLOW.

less exposed to ordinary notice, yet illustrative often of the interests of nations.

The concerns of the present moment generally engross the attention of the greater number of mankind. "All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing."* Multiplied and various, the affairs of business and pursuits of pleasure seem to require the whole man. But in every community will be found some, who are not satisfied with the contemplation of present objects only. They delight to trace the progress of events, and investigate their causes. They look back on manners, men and things, with a curious, scrutinizing eye. And not unfrequently does the Antiquary return from his excursions laden with invaluable spoils of time to swell the treasures of science and art.

To a philosophick mind such employment is pleasing. The state of society, which we behold, has resulted from the accumulated labours of many generations. Repeated efforts and experiments in legislation have led mankind, by gradual advances, to ascertain and appreciate their mutual rights and duties, and, of course, the mutual bearing and dependence

* Eccl. i. 8.

of each class and individual in society. The comforts, conveniences and luxuries of life, at the present day so varied, lead to reflections on the progressive acquisitions of human research, enterprise, skill and industry. Even in nations highly civilized, History can point us to periods, wherein the eye is arrested by the gloom of savage indolence on the one hand, or the barbarism of savage rapacity on the other. To an observing traveller the face of the earth now exhibits an interesting variety of stages. He may see the human nature degraded to its lowest debasement in some portions of the earth, and trace the effects of art and industry, as his eye glances from tribe to tribe, and nation to nation, in the vast family of man. The native of New Holland, the rude mountaineer of Burmah, the wretched islander of Andaman,* the shivering Samoiede and disgusting Hottentot are almost infinitely removed from the state of refinement exhibited in Europeans and their descendants. Yet it improved the nourishment of the first population of Greece, to indicate the beech-nut;† in Germany, Gaul and Britain‡ human sacrifices were not unfrequent, and, at her origin, imperial Rome|| herself

* SYMMES'S Embassy to Ava. † PAUSANIAS, lib. viii. p. 599. (Ed. Kuhn.)

‡ TACITUS Germ. & Cæsar de bello Gall. l. 6. || Liv. l. i. 8.

owed much of her greatness to outlaws of the surrounding country.

Permit me then, Gentlemen, to invite your attention, and that of this audience, to the general design of this Society, and a consideration of the utility and importance of pursuits denominated Antiquarian. This will necessarily, indeed, open to us a wider field, than we can now survey with minuteness, or than can be cultivated, without time and labour. And perhaps a liberty of diffuse remark may best accord with the present occasion, in which the SOCIETY celebrates for the first time in publick its auspicious anniversary.

Every thing regarding the Revelation, which the Creator and Governour of the universe has been pleased to make of his holy will and conduct, is interesting to us. Infidels have been found, who attempt to invalidate its proofs, or deny its authenticity. They have attacked the historical narrations of the scriptures, and with great zeal endeavoured to enlist in their service, the records, whether fabulous, interpolated, supposititious, or genuine, of ancient nations. They have denied the existence of certain facts, on the evidence of which much of the clearness, with which our holy religion is exhibited as divine, may seem to depend. Representations of external nature

made in the Bible have been ridiculed, its supposed philosophy held up to scorn, its chronology discarded, and, to say nothing of the manner, in which its recorded miracles have been treated, the history of the Israelites, the style and manner of composition, and the allusions to Gentile nations have met obloquy and reproach.*

That there are difficulties attending the adjustment of sacred chronology, none, who are versed in studies of that nature, will deny. But these difficulties have served to call forth the acuteness and learning of laborious investigators. And though a BOLINGBROKE may affirm, that he has “a thorough contempt for all the researches into antiquity, for all the systems of chronology and history, that we owe to the immense labours of a *Scaliger*, a *Bochart*, a *Petavius*, an *Usher*, or even a *Marsham* ;” yet “to endeavour to digest the history of mankind, and of the principal events that have happened in the world, in a regular series, to mark the rise and fall of cities and empires, to compare and connect the histories of different countries and nations, sacred history and profane ; and, in order to this, to lay together the scattered hints and fragments of different ages, is, notwithstand-

* See LELAND'S “View of Deistical Writers,” and his “Reflections on Lord BOLINGBROKE'S *Letters on the study and use of History*.”

ing this degrading description of it, a noble employment, an employment that even a Sir *Isaac Newton* judged not to be unworthy of his great genius.”*

Whatever learning elucidates the sacred records, repays amply the labour of acquisition. Hence they, who have appreciated justly the value of Divine Truth, have been anxiously sedulous to investigate all parts of history and philosophy connected with it; and the student of biblical literature is now richly furnished from their collected treasures.

The high antiquity assigned to the history of the Egyptians has been a favourite theme with infidels. Among them DUPUIS and VOLNEY have considered fifteen or seventeen thousand years,† as the most probable period of their arrangement of the signs of the Zodiack. But this pretended antiquity beyond the accounts of MOSES is amply disproved by the critical investigations of learned Antiquaries. Greece received her mythology from Egypt, blended, as it was, with Phœnician rites, and Rome, in a considerable measure, from Greece. Illustrations, therefore, of Egyptian theology, including that of neighbouring countries of the East, apply with much force to the elucidation of the popular systems of religion in those

* LELAND, *Reflections*, &c. † PRIESTLEY'S *Remarks on Dupuis' work*

celebrated nations. And the whole has tended to establish the great facts of a deluge, the repopling of the earth from a single family, and a subsequent compulsory dispersion.

In these studies no man, perhaps, has done more for the cause of truth, than the celebrated BRYANT, a name ever to be mentioned by the Antiquary with respect and veneration. In his great work, "the Analysis of Ancient Mythology," he has undertaken "to divest it of every foreign and unmeaning ornament, and to display the truth in its native simplicity ; to show that all the rites and mysteries of the Gentiles were only so many memorials of their principal ancestors, and of the great occurrences, to which they had been witnesses"—that "they all related to the history of the first ages, and to the same events, which are recorded by Moses."*

While the frost work of Pagan fiction in Europe was thus dissolving before the rays of science, the recesses of Hindoo superstition, rendered tenfold more gloomy by Brahminic arts, were discovered and explored. In this survey the

"Accomplished JONES—whose hand to every art

"Could unknown charms and nameless grace impart,"†

* Preface, cited by HOLWELL. Myth. Dict. † GRANT'S "Poem on the restoration of learning in the East."

is regarded justly, as bearing away the palm from all competitors. He has identified the gods of Greece, Italy, and India, taken off the veil of mysterious secrecy from ancient rites, reduced to historick possibility the boasted, but “endless genealogies” of Hindustan, curtailed the fabulous antiquity of China, and shown the world, that the great lawgiver of Israel was a historian and geographer as accurate, as he was a legislator divinely inspired.

Bold indeed must be the infidel capable of reading and reflection, who, after weighing the elaborate disquisitions of such eminent scholars, would attack, on the ground these champions occupy, the authenticity of the scriptures of the Jews. Are we not rather convinced, to use the words of one, who has compared the “Institutions of Moses with those of the Hindoos,”* that, “it has been by means of this one despised nation, (for JESUS the founder of the Christian religion was of it”) *as concerning the flesh*,† “that the knowledge of the one true God has been preserved and propagated in the world to this very day”—that “all nations that have not been directly or indirectly instructed by them are idolaters”—and that “it is to revelation only, and not to any exertion

* Dr. PRIESTLEY, p. 86 of his “Comparison.” † Rom. ix. 5.

of human reason, that we are indebted for such great and important light.”

If already so much has been done to aid the cause of truth, by the comparison of ancient profane history with the Sacred Scriptures, we may hope that whatever obscurity yet remains will vanish, as the investigations of learning are pursued with steady, persevering caution.

But Sir WILLIAM JONES and the venerated BRYANT are only distinguished from a host of illustrious votaries of recondite learning. There has, in fact, never been wanting, since history has been written, a taste and inclination to search out, preserve and transmit the discoverable traces of ancient knowledge. Even MOSES, the sacred instrument of the providence of GOD in leading Israel to the promised inheritance, and founding their commonwealth by Divine legislation, stops at times his hallowed narrative to sketch its remnants.* Valuable fragments of Chaldæan, Phœnician and Egyptian history have been preserved by JOSEPHUS and EUSEBIUS, those valued Antiquaries, whose toil has smoothed the path of succeeding historians. HOMER too has cast light on the origin and progress of nations; and the amiable PLU-

* Instances often occur, as Numb. xiii. 22. Deut. ii. 20--23. iii. 9, &c.

TARCH assists the enquirer by his learned dissertations on ordinary manners, religious superstitions, and general antiquities.

Miscellaneous collections almost innumerable have also been made by individuals in ancient and modern times. ATHENÆUS and GELLIUS, PLINY and ÆLIAN have gained celebrity by this employment of their time, and rescued several valuable facts and names from oblivion*—while the deep and extensive erudition of VARRO, DIONYSIUS, PAUSANIAS, PTOLEMY and NONNUS cast a strong and steady light on the subjects of their notice.

Among the moderns we can hardly name a respectable historian or critick of weight, who has not felt the obligation to pay a marked regard to the study of antiquities. Indeed some knowledge of antiquities is indispensable to the historian, if not to enable him to describe with accuracy the subjects of his record, yet at least to form a sound judgment of their character and importance.

But I fear, lest the patience of this respected audience may not accompany the speaker, should he at-

* Yet “ Vixêre fortes ante Agamemnona
 “ Multi ; sed omnes illacrymabiles
 “ Urgentur, ignotique longa
 “ Nocte, carent quia vate sacro.”

HOR. Carm. l. iv. Od. 9.

tempt to review, though briefly, the branches of labour in this department of science. Yet why should he distrust it? For in which of the cities of America have such pursuits met more attention and patronage, than in this? He will not forget the solid and various learning of the illustrious MATHERS, the accurate and laborious researches of the classick BELKNAP, nor the beloved name of ELIOT, his early patron, and lamented literary friend and guide.

I have not attempted to define antiquities, for they belong to almost every art and science; and they, who have cultivated any art or science with attachment and diligence, may be often benefited by the history of its progress.

In the important sciences, for instance, of legislation, jurisprudence and statisticks, we have already seen in part the essential aid to be acquired, from perusing the remains of ancient knowledge and experiment. The first formation of states, the sources of wealth and power, the origin of laws, their adaptation to the character and situation of the community, the result of this adaptation,* and the various changes of manners and government induced by circumstances;

* --“inde tibi, tuæque reipublicæ, quod imitere capias; inde foedum inceptu, foedum exitu, quod vites.” LIV. Præf.

all these, as they are of high interest to the legislator, have found able and faithful observers, whose lessons, deduced from the happy or distressing experience of ages more or less remote, are the golden rules of the sagacious statesman.

We might proceed with almost every subject, that occupies the attention of mankind. Poetry has its history and antiquities. The nature and progress of language has employed much curious speculation, and is still, and will long remain a fruitful theme of critical remark. Mathematics, geography, natural and experimental philosophy, agriculture, commerce, and “the art that embalms all arts,” have had their stages of advancement, which inquisitive observers have delighted to record. Physiology is traced with interest from its rudest to its most cultivated state, from its stem to its branches ; and as its flourishing shoots are observed to multiply and expand, the pleasing fruit is expected to nourish and prolong human existence, and its leaf to be “for the healing of the nations.”*

The history of the Church of GOD under the Jewish and Christian dispensations, as it has occu-

* Rev. xxii. 2.

pied the pens of innumerable writers, derives elucidation greatly from judicious antiquarian labour.

In all these branches it would be invidious to name only the few, who can find a place in this address ; yet must we not omit, in addition to those, who have been mentioned, the indefatigable GROTIUS, the learned SELDEN, HOTTINGER, D'HERBELOT, DUPIN and CUMBERLAND. In another branch we must distinguish CAMDEN, STUKELEY, DUCANGE, SPELMAN, DUGDALE, SHERINGHAM and BARRINGTON ; still further, GOGUET, DE GUIGNES, PELLOUTIER, CAYLUS, VALLANCEY, WILFORD and MAURICE, nor pass by the immense labours of GRONOVIVS, MURATORI, GRUTER, and MONTFAUCON.

If we except, however, the Jesuits, that once wealthy and powerful association, and some monastick orders, especially the Benedictines, few bodies have encouraged such pursuits, and several of the industrious Antiquaries, we have named, were private scholars. Universities indeed, and other publick literary institutions, have assisted such inquirers occasionally, but associations of men for purposes professedly literary are the invaluable privilege of times comparatively modern. The Societies formed under royal patronage in London. Paris. Berlin, Peters-

burgh, and other cities of Europe, have greatly advanced the progress of science, and by the publication of select essays on subjects maturely examined introduced a precision and caution, which cannot but be favourable. At the same time the Antiquarian Societies of London and Edinburgh, with others embracing the same design, have brought before the publick a mass of valuable ancient topography, many curious remains of art, and interesting views of former population and manners.

The taste for such pursuits, which arose at the re-suscitation of liberal learning, and has increased in Europe to the present times, accompanied, as it now is, with bibliographick literature, has crossed the Atlantick. I do not say it has lately crossed for the first time, since, probably, there has been no period of the history of our European settlements destitute of those, who have directed their attention to these branches of enquiry.

The preceding remarks, gentlemen, have been offered mostly, as introductory to a consideration of the special design and objects of the AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY. If I have been successful in describing the value of researches into antiquity in general, and the interest excited by them in the minds

of many of the first and ripest scholars of ancient and modern times, I flatter myself we shall contemplate with increased regard the province appropriated to ourselves. With the stale objections to such pursuits, arising more, perhaps, from indolence or overweening self esteem, than from sober conviction, although it be acknowledged that many of the apparently grave and learned have been egregious triflers, neither this audience, nor he, who addresses it, has any concern.

Prevalent and successful, as the taste has been in Europe, for antiquarian research, it has also been observable and striking here, and apparently increases. Already has it done much. A catalogue of the books, tracts, and documents of original value, which have been produced among us, must be considered honorary to our country. "The Historical Society of Massachusetts" has led the way in the encouragement of this taste, and in supplying means for its gratification. The liberal arrangements of its library cannot but be beneficial to those, who happily reside in its vicinity, while its publications have been uninterrupted, interesting and satisfactory. Much was effected and is still doing by the respected Societies instituted previously in Pennsylvania and Mas-

sachusetts. But their designs embrace a wider range. It is a subject of felicitation to our country, that, in the increase of institutions of a literary and scientific nature, there yet appears room for another association, which shall still more appropriately than either of those, which before were instituted, devote itself to the acquisition, description and preservation of American Antiquities. The multiplying and securing of copies of ancient documents, their preservation in the interior, less exposed to ordinary hazards, and an additional interest excited in a greater number of the community—some such considerations, as these, gentlemen, were probably motives for forming this Society. May its success answer your most lively expectations, and the best wishes of its friends.

A few of the objects, which present themselves to an American Antiquary, shall now be noticed.

The ancient Indian nations of our continent demand our first attention.

Here an extensive field of enquiry opens at once. The present condition of the native Indian tribes indicates a deterioration in numbers, spirit and skill, if we survey them even by the light of those narratives, which have been left us by our ancestors, and

those, who were first acquainted with this extensive country.

AMERICA was discovered at a period, when the human mind, rousing from its long slumbers, began to exert itself anew in the splendid career of science. The invention of printing, as it offered a surprising facility in the multiplication of books, left their writers more leisure to increase their original productions. Commerce had begun to expand the conceptions of men, to enlarge their enjoyments, and multiply their wants, as well as the means of supply. The stores of ancient literature were unlocked; the precious manuscripts, which had survived the desolations of barbarism, and lain in the secrecy and silence of the cloister, were brought forth, committed to the press and distributed among the learned. The ruin of the empire of the East, by the final subjection of Constantinople to the Turks,* had expelled from that capital many Greeks of eminent accomplishments, who became the instructors of Italy. Science revived under the liberal patronage of the Princely Merchant of Florence,† and as his example allured others, a consequence was, that Italy furnished to the States of Europe not only the best statesmen,

* A. D. 1453.

† COSMO de' MEDICI.

and most accomplished scholars, but also the most skilful navigators, and most adventurous seamen.*

No sooner was the discovery effected, than it began to be enquired whence the new race of men originated—an enquiry, which has continued to employ the conjectures, and to animate the investigations of men of leisure and learning from that time to the present. Much, therefore, has been written on the subject, and many hypotheses formed.† Interest gave an edge to these speculations at that period; for not only was it contended who first discovered America, but the honour of peopling it has been assigned successively to almost every nation; it being then imagined, that some right in the soil would accrue to the nation, from which the population flowed.‡

Wedded to systems, and not always disposed to undergo the labour necessary to ascertain their truth,

* DR. BELKNAP observes, “It is remarkable that the three great European kingdoms, Spain, England and France, made use of three Italians to conduct their discoveries: Columbus, a Genoese; Cabot, a Venetian; and Verrazzani, a Florentine.” *Am. Biog.* vol. I. p. 159.

† See ROBERTSON’S Hist. of Amer. and HORNIUS de Gentium Amer. origine.

‡ DR. BARTON supposes the principle to have operated in the account so often copied from Dr. POWEL’S Hist. of Wales of the emigration of MADOC. *Med. and Phys. Journal.*

European writers have contented themselves too frequently with vague reports and slight resemblances. Hence their reasoning has been deceptive, and their results false. Yet the misrepresentations, which have been made by **DE PAUW** and **BUFFON**, and from which even **ROBERTSON** is not freed, have happily excited able replies, from mature examination of facts ; and in the “*Notes on Virginia*,” as well as the **Abbé CLAVIGERO**’s extensive and elaborate “*History of Mexico*,” the assertions of these writers, which are most glaringly inconsistent, are found refuted.

The exertions of the Society formed by the advice and under the presidency of **Sir WILLIAM JONES**, of whose learned labours the “*Asiatick Researches*” will ever be esteemed a most honourable monument, have made us acquainted with many curious facts in the history of the nations of the east, which may tend to elucidate the great question of **American population**. But possibly traces of the daring enterprise and naval skill of the **CUTHITE** or **AMONIAN FAMILY**,* whose achievements form, in the opinion of **Mr. BRYANT**, so great a portion of ancient mythology,

* See especially **CLARKE**’s “*Progress of Maritime Discovery*,” *Introd.* vol. I. **EDWARDS**’ *West Indies*, and **BELKNAP**’s *Biog.* close of *Introd.* *Dissert.*

may yet be discovered on the western, as well as eastern coasts of the American continent.

How barren then soever the theme of Indian antiquities may appear at a superficial glance, because they present so few of those means of remote investigation, which are common on the old continent, as books, and monuments for recording important events, or commemorating distinguished characters ; yet it may be found, that etymological enquiry, cautiously and diligently pursued, with a careful investigation of religious rites and ceremonies, and the prevailing manners, will connect the history of our Indian population with the ancient achievements of the early descendants of NOAH. Already, in fact, has this course terminated here, in the result of the unremitting perseverance of our distinguished countryman, DR. BARTON, whose “New Views of the American Indians” have led him to the same conclusions, to which enquiries of a similar nature had conducted MR. BRYANT and SIR WILLIAM JONES.

To collect complete vocabularies of the Indian tongues, to ascertain the boundaries of their ancient governments, and the progress they made in the few arts, which were practised among them ; to obtain a knowledge of their numbers and circumstances at

the various epochs of their progress or declension, are objects of laudable curiosity.

Connected with this are two subjects especially, which seem of much higher import, than the gratification of even laudable curiosity. Our Puritan Ancestors thought much and expended time, pains and money, in the truly christian work of evangelising the natives. In the single state of Massachusetts, toward the close of the 17th century, more than thirty congregations of praying Indians met for publick worship,* and more than twenty Indian teachers† were the precious fruits to CHRIST of the “Pilgrims of Leyden,” and their pious associates. How these churches have declined—what number of native Indians are now to be regarded, as Christian brethren; and how far the effects of Christianity are happily discernible among any, may well be esteemed fit subjects of enquiry.

The other is this. A language of signs has been discovered, simple, easy, and intelligible, and supposed to savour of Asiatick origin.‡ By means of

* NEALE. DR. C. MATHER’S *India Christ*.

† Noticed by LEUSDEN, in dedicating his Hebrew Psalter to President MATHER.

‡ See a paper on this subject, communicated by WILLIAM DUNBAR, Esq of the Mississ. Ter. in Part I. vol. VI. of the “Transactions of the Amer. Philosoph. Society,” Philadelphia.

this, it is asserted, that, “ Almost all Indian nations living between the Mississippi and the Western American ocean” are able to hold communication, “ although their respective oral tongues are frequently unknown to each other.” What a treasure would be this language of signs to a Christian Missionary among those nations !

A second general subject of enquiry is *the Western Mounds of Earth*.—These may in fact be considered as belonging to the preceding division. But as they are the only striking evidence we have of ancient population, and the progress of arts in remote times, they demand a distinct notice. Their use is variously conjectured. Ordinarily enclosures of this kind have been termed *fortifications*, and contrivances for defence have been supposed to be ascertained. Others have considered them the remains of ancient temples, and have discovered the altar and other appendages. But a third opinion is that of the Rev. Bishop MADISON, as the result of personal observation, that these enclosures (for of the conical tumuli there is generally but one opinion) were only lines or fences erected for the purposes of agriculture.* Possibly this question may find a decision in the wilds of Siberia ; but a

* See *communi. vol. VI.* “ *Transac. of Amer. Philoso. Soc.*” Philadel.

new interest has of late been given to the subject by information respecting a tribe of **WELSH** Indians,* to whom the building of these enclosures and circular mounds is assigned by other Indians themselves. Few subjects connected with American antiquities have excited more curiosity than this, and few deserve a more critical attention.

A third branch of enquiry offers itself in *the early European Settlements*.—To ascertain by whom, at what time, and for what purpose settlements were made, and how long, if now deserted, they were held; or their subsequent progress, if retained, belongs, in all its branches of Spanish, French, English, Dutch, Portuguese, Danish and Swedish population, to the history and antiquities of our Continent; as do also the fossil remains of animated nature, or primitive art.

I shall but name a fourth branch, consisting of *Civil Antiquities*.—This head of enquiry I propose to refer to the European accessions of population in America. At the time when the colonising of the southern portion of this vast continent commenced, Europe was in slavish subjection to the mandates of Rome. But for some time before the northern portion received inhabitants from England, **HENRY VIII.** had shaken off the yoke. Our own ancestors were mostly dissenters

* STODDARD'S Sketches of Louisiana.

from the Church establishment in the reign of JAMES, his sister's grandson. At that period the rights of subjects began to be discussed, but no STUART would willingly permit the discussion of the *duties* of kings.

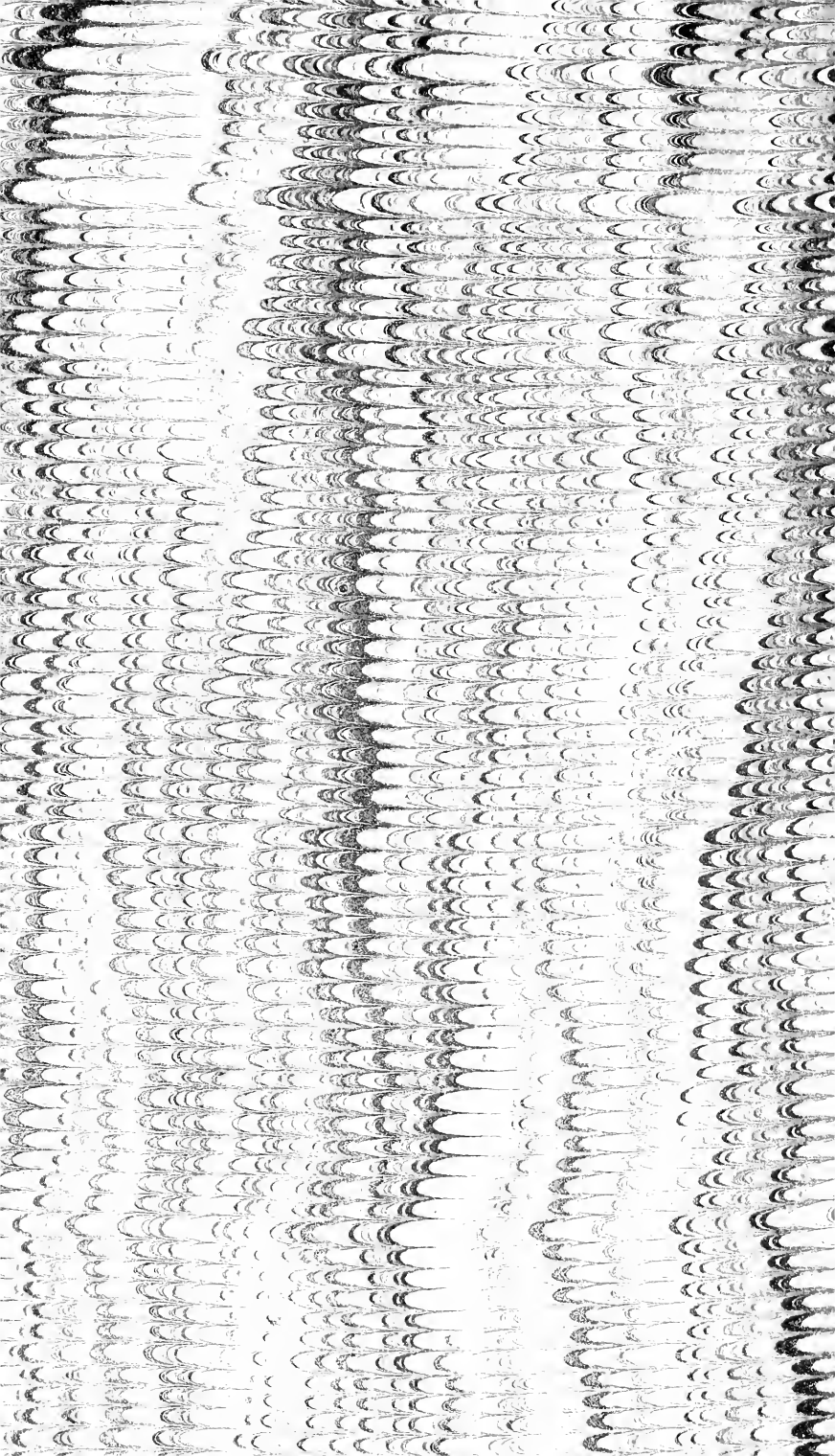
Would we form then a just opinion of the feelings, views and actions of the Fathers of New England, we must attend minutely to their history. To judge of their treatment of Indians, for instance, it is necessary to ascertain their speculations and views concerning them. In all their conduct, we should make our conclusions with reference to their times, their habits of life, and the progress of society in their memorable age.

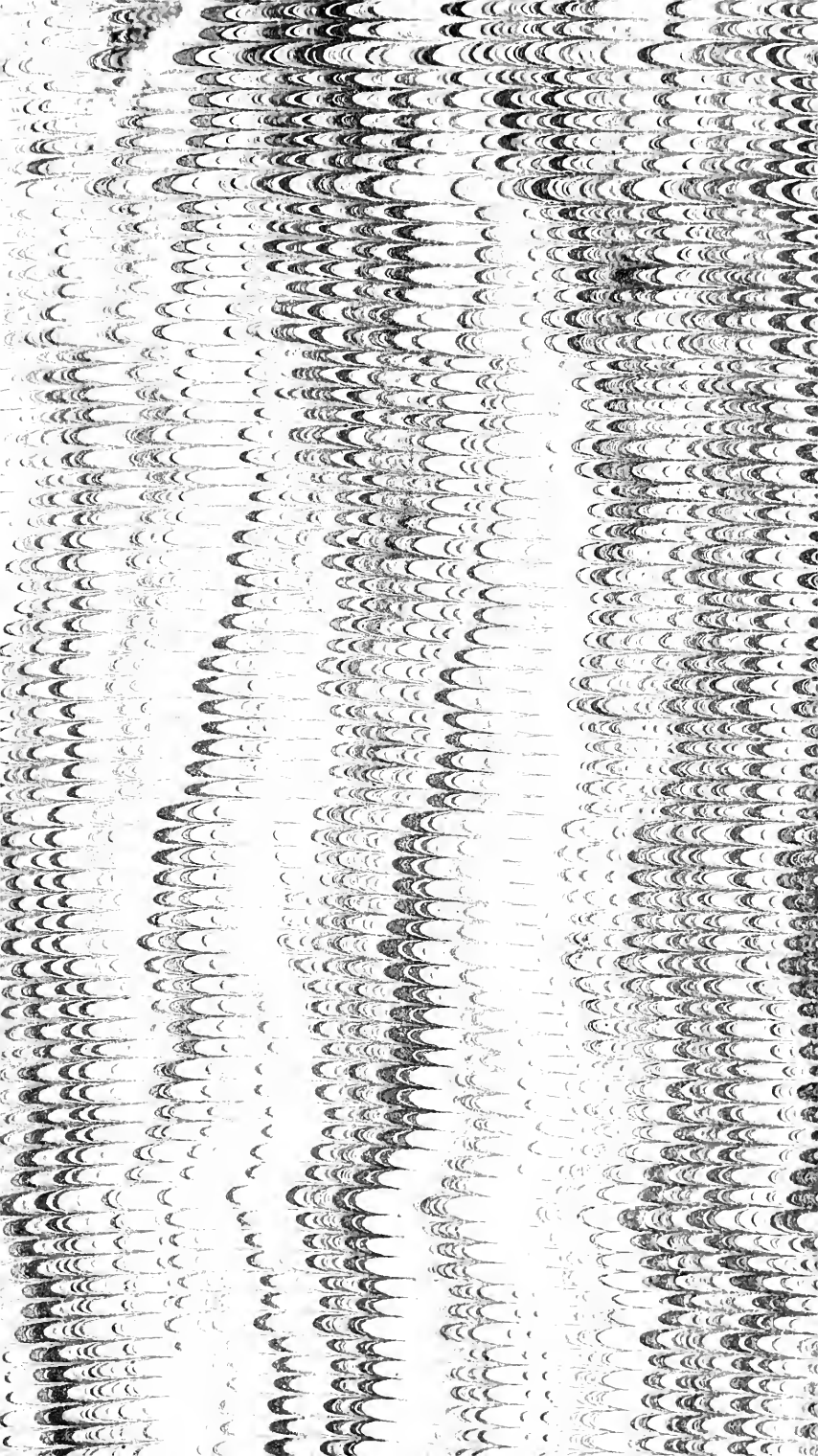
If in this manner we study their history, permit me to remark, we shall not only be impressed with a strong sense of their resolution, enterprise and piety; but also find our own views and feelings purified by converse with ancient times and ancient manners. An accurate observer of the world has suggested, that the man, who thinks little of his ancestors, will be careless of his posterity. Would we appreciate our privileges, we must contemplate their cost. If it is important to transmit them to posterity, we must be strongly impressed with their value; for the more we value them, the greater will be our exertions to hand them down unimpaired to the coming age. But their worth can never be known, until we form a com-

parison between our institutions, rights and advantages and those of other times and other people. This comparison will also tend to repress the inflations of individual and national vanity; for while it shows the origin and advancement of the principles of national greatness, by heightening our respect for solid worth, it may contribute much to imbue our own minds with those qualities, which have stood the test of time.

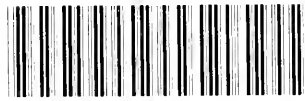
To animate our labours, we will then look forward to the period, when that which is determined in the councils of the ALMIGHTY, shall be brought into effect by His gracious Providence, for human happiness and divine honour. Viewing in the discoveries of Revelation the designs of GOD, we anticipate the glory of the *“latter day.”* Then, as we will hope, by Antiquarian researches only, shall be discovered traces of impure morals, and mistaken principles, vicious practices, diseased bodies, and violent animosities, gloomy superstition and lax indifference, disregard of a SAVIOUR, and careless neglect of the salvation of fellow men.

You will therefore, gentlemen, unite with me in the fervent wish, that the world may continue to grow wise, until it exhibit for ages a resemblance of heaven. For ourselves, and for our coteremporaries, may it be the effort, privilege and delight of life, to contribute somewhat at least toward such a consummation.—*FINIS.*





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